

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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HOY: "IN GOD WE TRUST" PLATE NOT NEEDED TO SHOW FAITH

INDIANAPOLIS – Saying such an idea runs against the teachings of Jesus Christ, State Rep. Phil Hoy (D-Evansville) today voted against legislation that would create an Indiana license plate bearing the words "In God We Trust."

House Bill 1029, which adds the "In God We Trust" plate to the list of specialty plates offered through the state of Indiana, was approved by representatives.

"While I was able to make this bill a little better through second reading amendments, I still think that this legislation is not needed and I believe we need to find other avenues in which to demonstrate our faith," said Hoy, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and president of the Evansville Area Community of Churches.

Hoy said his faith requires him to treat the deity's name as sacred, rather than something to be placed indiscriminately on items like license plates.

"To me, doing something like this is very close to taking the Lord's name in vain," Hoy said.

In addition, the legislator said he believed that a specialty plate bearing such a logo would violate the separation between church and state.

"I am glad that the bill now includes language I offered that prohibits the plate from containing any kind of emblem identifying a particular religion," Hoy said. "Without that restriction, I am afraid this bill would create a Pandora's Box of groups wanting to attach their symbols to the plate, with even extreme sects having the right to be linked to this plate put out by the state of Indiana."

Ultimately, Hoy said he rejects the idea of the need for such a plate because it contradicts the teachings of Christ.

"By going back to those teachings, we learn that Jesus saved his harshest words for those who flaunted the Lord's name," Hoy said. "Faith should be an intensely personal matter, not something that we should have to legislate. I hope my colleagues realize that fact, and this bill fades away instead of becoming law."